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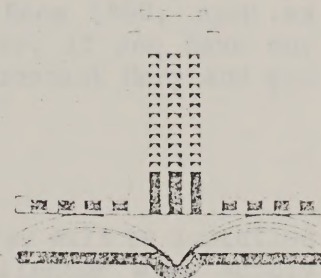
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
TECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY BUILDING
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20705

No. 3, October 3, 1980



TIS NEWS NOTES

CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE

Things have been a bit slow around here during the past two months, but TIS activities are picking up with the fall season and the start of the new Fiscal Year October 1. We hope this will mean an upsurge in items for inclusion in future editions of these NOTES. As before, please send your briefs to Gene Farkas, now doing business in Room 408.

THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN BUSINESS

It's all over now, but in case you missed the recent excitement (is that possible?), the Congress finally passed a continuing appropriations resolution on Oct. 1 -- the day after our FY 1980 funding authority expired. Fortunately, no time or money was lost and we continued in business as usual. We now can keep our doors open under the resolution which remains in effect until the Department gets its FY 1981 budget through the Congress sometime after the November presidential election.

We were prepared for any emergency, however. The department and agencies of the Executive Branch from the White House on down had their contingency plans ready for the orderly close-down of non-essential activities (essential ones would be national security, foreign relations, protection of life and property, air traffic control, etc.). Dr. Farley, our administrator, met continuously with other top SEA executives Tuesday, Sept. 30, to monitor the situation. And the word did come forth, and it was good. We didn't miss a beat.

THE PAY RAISE IS ALIVE AND WELL

The 9.1 percent cost-of-living increase for federal employees should take effect the pay period beginning Sunday, Oct. 5, according to all accounts. The official word has not yet reached us, but we expect it soon. As has been the case in the past, the actual amount of this hike will vary by percentage between different grade levels. For the time being, watch the local newspapers for additional details.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS INCREASED

As of Oct. 5, allowable reimbursements will be increased for per diem (\$50 a day) for actual subsistence expense allowances, and for mileage rates (22.5 cents a mile). Call Mary Ball (ext. 44248) for details on the actual subsistence category or with any other questions you may have on the subject of new travel funding increases.

CONFERENCE ROOM RESERVATIONS

As of Oct. 1, Mary Ball became responsible for scheduling the use of our 14th floor conference room. All meetings previously set for Room 1400, such as periodic gatherings like COSTIS, remain in effect. However, if you have any future sessions you want to hold in that room, you need to contact Mary and get your reservation put in the book.

SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT FOR NAL BLDG.

In the very near future, a massive solar energy collector array will be installed on our wing rooftop for demonstration purposes. This collector will supply heating and cooling for the 3-story wing building only. The demonstration program will be funded by the Department of Energy and bids are being solicited right now. Bob Yates, our air-conditioning and heating man, is overseeing the job on this end. Considering the current energy situation, it should be interesting to observe the effects and results of this project. The latest work on the program, incidentally, was posted recently on a new Energy Bulletin Board located in the 14th floor cafeteria. Other useful information on alternate energy developments also will be displayed on the board.

TIS FILM BEING EDITED FOR SHOWING

Lights...camera...action! All of these elements were evident in the NAL Building and various BARC locations recently as the production of a 15- to 20-minute video-tape on TIS operations and services was being produced under contract managed by ERD. With the continuing assistance of the SEA Information Staff and AOD's Procurement Section, we are now about to edit those reams of tape into an attractive package for our actual and potential users. But first the tape will be screened internally for all TIS employees. After all, it couldn't have been done without your cooperation whether you were a principal or an extra. We hope the show will be ready for screening here by November 1.

ERD MOVES TO NEW QUARTERS

The Educational Resources Division this month began concentrating its personnel and activities on the 4th floor. ERD Chief Gene Farkas is now housed in Room 408 with David Hoyt and Dean Gamble occupying offices in the same suite. The division's new clerk-typist, Karen Wexler, is also there as will be the just-selected division secretary. A number of other office spaces should be filled in the coming months. Two of the ERD telephone numbers -- 43778 and 43779 -- remain the same for the Chief. Hoyt and Gamble can be reached on 43937, 43938, or 43939.

OCLC MAY MARKET "THE SOURCE" TO LIBRARIES

An inexpensive computer network for information, education, communication and entertainment called "The Source" probably will be available to libraries through OCLC beginning Nov. 1 (Sam Waters has details). This forecast was made at the quarterly meeting of the OCLC Users Council at which the council was brought up to date on the status of a number of new modules and enhancements to existing ones. The acquisitions systems will be available for testing by the evaluating libraries (of which NAL is one) well before Christmas. Claiming capability should be added to the Serials module during the first quarter of 1981. Recently completed enhancements include search retrieval on government document numbers, single-step check-in of serial issues, etc. OCLC is also offering discounted rates for accessing data files held by BRS, Lockheed, and the New York Times. Irene Glennon is the TIS/OCLC coordinator.

TIS HONORED AT HISPANIC CEREMONIES

TIS was singled out for helping Highlands University students through the Cooperative Education Program during "National Hispanic Heritage Week" festivities in the patio of USDA's Administration Building recently. Dr. John Aragon, President of the Highlands University of New Mexico, mentioned the TIS program in his address as guest speaker and said he hoped TIS will continue to participate in this program. Bill Yagodich represented TIS at the ceremonies.

CRIS PUBLICATION ISSUED

The 1980 edition of "Keyword Bank in CRIS has been distributed to CRIS users in the states and elsewhere with copies available as long as the supply lasts. Phil Dopkowski in ISD is the contact for this publication. It is also available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The 1980 edition of the Solar Energy Directory should be printed in December as reported at the last meeting of the TIS Publications Review Board.

NAL BUILDING PICNIC

Our annual picnic was held on September 12. The weatherman supplied fine weather for us and we all had a good time. About 170 people participated. There was lots to eat and the games of volleyball were great. Thanks go out to all of those who contributed the baked goodies. A special thanks to the following: Joella Henderson, Judy Winesdorfer, Patty Goss, Beverly Kohn, Shirley Paull, Nancy Raff, Helen Kretsi, Pat Mortimer, Sandy Posey, Betty Daniels, and Patti Wheeler. Without these people our ticket sales would not have been such a success. Also a special thanks to Karen Freitag for the great posters. Keep your eyes open because we have planned some more activities for the rest of the year.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Jerry Paulson, a former IPA, is now a Computer Systems Analyst, ISD, as is Janet Burton within the CRIS section. Rosalie Curtin has been named secretary to Tom Tate.

Robert Jones has retired as legislative reference specialist with the Law Library Staff after 38 years of federal service.

Two new applicants were accepted for the Upward Mobility Program, which brings the number of TIS participants to seven. The new applicants, Barbara Thompson and Jesse Brown, join Pat Krug, Iris Irby, Wanda Higgs, Karen Freitag and Don Yeldell in the program.

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